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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF CIVIL AND DEFENSE MOBILIZATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

July 13, 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: Berlin

The attached memorandum of July 10 to Mr. Cash, Department of State, was not distributed to the Council members with the draft "Federal Emergency Plan for Berlin," as prepared by this Office. The omission was unfortunate in that the characterization of that "plan" as "a check-list of actions which may need to be considered" was thereby lost.

Economic mobilization and civilian readiness measures should, of course, be designed to support the military measures selected. When decisions are reached with respect to the scope of such measures, we shall be prepared to recommend promptly a series of appropriate actions.

Any significant degree of mobilization may be expected to produce some measure of economic dislocation. It is of prime importance that the President be empowered to institute immediately such controls as may be necessary to cope with such dislocation.

In keeping with the spirit of the Acheson report, we therefore stress the importance of obtaining from the Congress standby authority for economic controls, to be invoked by the President only at the time and to the degree necessary. This standby authority has been repeatedly recommended in the past, but the previous administration took no action on such recommendations. The Presidential request for such authority should indicate that it is sought to permit prompt executive action in any and all cold war contingencies--not only in connection with the Berlin crisis.

Frank B. Ellis

Frank B. Ellis
Director

Attachment

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